


The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology



Health Information Exchange (HIE) & Emergency Preparedness and Response

Lee Stevens
Director, State HIE Program Policy Office

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HIE and Disasters

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- Hurricane Katrina and September 11, 2001 jolted Americans in their awareness of large scale disasters.
- Electronic health data exchange capacity was not available in either disaster.
- Health care response capacity and coordination was proven to be inadequate.
- Basic health information was not available for most patients and the consequences were dire.
- Today, HIE dramatically improves the strength and effectiveness of an emergency responder or provider in large scale events.
- The patient also has a new and evolving role.

1

Building Agreement

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- Following these disasters, ONC collaboratively launched the Gulf Coast HIT Task Force – intended to establish interstate data exchange in the event of another regional disaster.
- This effort yielded much intelligence on the nature of data sharing agreements, which are more complex from a business and personal perspective than a technical perspective.
- After 8 years, we learned that simple is better.

2

Obstacles 4 + 1

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- Business and Sustainability
- Personalities and Relationships
- Existing Data Silos
- Legal Agreements

- A short memory. It's probably not going to happen here...

3

Solutions: A Two-Pronged Approach

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- California will strongly benefit from a focus on:
 1. Data sharing across counties/regions
 - Focus first on evacuation routes/natural migration patterns.
 - Keep it familiar and simple.
 2. Consumer Mediated Exchange
 - Encourage Personal Health Records (PHRs).
 - Make it relatable not just for disasters.
 - Capitalize on protecting your family.

4

The Uniqueness of California

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- We have learned these problems are solved recognizing regional and cultural strengths...

1. Californians are a tech savvy crowd – this is where a lot of addictive technology is created.
2. Lots of people have smartphones ☺
3. The most at-risk areas have a lot health conscious people.

5

The Consumer in LA County & CA

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- Recommend an electronic Personal Health Record (PHR) in "Survival Guides".
- Engage providers and hospitals in this effort.
- Mobilize stakeholders to spread the word. (churches, public health clinics, elected officials)
- Develop supportive "apps" that integrate PHRs into online emergency planning.
- Public Service Announcements
- Encourage consumers to get PHRs for other things like immunizations records for summer camp/back to school.

6

HIE Supports Consumer Engagement

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- Care coordination
- Communication with providers
- Manage health and wellness
- + Preparation (you and your family)

ONC's Three A's for Consumer Engagement

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Access

- Give consumers secure, timely electronic access to their health information.

Action

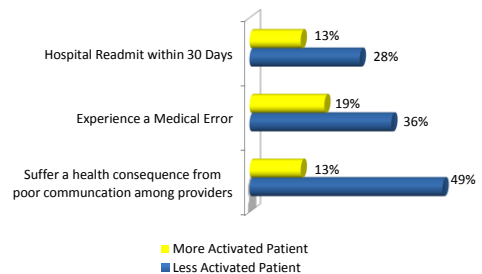
- Support the development of tools that help consumers to take action using information.

Attitude

- Help evolve expectations for consumers and providers.

Consumer Engagement = Better Care

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Gulf Coast Task Force - SERCH

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- **ONC State Health Policy Consortium Project: Health Information Exchange in Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- **Southeast Regional HIT-HIE Collaboration (SERCH): Final Report online at:**
- <http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/SERCH-White-Paper.pdf>

10

MOU – Mutual Aid

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- **APPENDIX E: TEMPLATE FOR MUTUAL AID MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
- This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and among the signatory political Jurisdictions within the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Florida (hereinafter referred to as the Southeastern Regional Consortium for Health Information Exchange (SERCH) and their respective Emergency Management Systems.

11

MOU - #6 Implementation Plan

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- Each party should develop an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that includes a process to provide for the effective exchange of PHI. The EOP should include a designation of data warehouses, both public and private, available during an Emergency and the Alternate Sources of Health Care Data authorized to provide or receive assistance under this MOU. A copy of the EOP should be provided to the designated contact for each state upon execution of the MOU.

12

SERCH - Data Sharing Recommendations

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1. Understand the State's disaster response policies and align with the State agency designated for Emergency Support Function #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) before a disaster occurs.
2. Develop standard procedures approved by relevant public and private stakeholders to share electronic health information across State lines before a disaster occurs.
3. Consider enacting the Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding to establish a waiver of liability for the release of records when an emergency is declared and to default state privacy and security laws to existing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules in a disaster. States should also consider using the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA) in order to address and/or expedite patient privacy, security, and health data-sharing concerns.
4. Assess the State's availability of public and private health information sources and the ability to electronically share the data using HIE(s) and other health data-sharing entities.
5. Consider a phased approach to establishing interstate electronic health information-sharing capabilities.

13

Questions

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14